

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1-29. Claims 1, 11, 12, 17, 25, and 27 are currently amended. New claims 28 and 29 are added. Claims 3-7 and 14 are withdrawn.

The “produced by reacting an aqueous solution of water-soluble calcium salt with an aqueous solution of an alkaline metal hydroxide” amendment to claims 1, 12, 17 and 25 is supported on page 7, line 4 to page 8, line 28 of the specification.

The remaining amendments to claim 17 are supported in original claim 12.

New claim 28 is supported on page 8, line 8 of the specification.

New claim 29 is supported on page 8, line 10 of the specification.

The amendments to claims 11 and 27 are editorial and self explanatory.

No new matter is added.

Claim Objections

Claims 11 and 17 are objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) of being of improper dependent form.

Claim 11 is currently amended to make clear that the claim is directed to a surface-treated calcium hydroxide which is obtained by surface treating the calcium hydroxide of claim 1. Applicants submit that the specification describes on page 10, line 14, to page 12, line 19, that a surface treatment can be done in addition to the steps recited in claim 1.

Claim 17 is also currently amended to be independent.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-2, 3-11 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Takafumi et al. (JP 2003-327427).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants note that Takafumi et al. has a publication date of November 19, 2003. The present application claims priority to JP 2003-383824, filed November 13, 2003, and JP 2003-

383825, filed November 13, 2003. Applicants here include certified English translations of both priority documents. Accordingly, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 8-11, and 25 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hidekazu et al. (JP 09-278435).

Claims 12-13, 15-19, and 21, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyata et al. (US 6,592,834) in view of Hidekazu et al.

Claims 20, 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyata et al. in view of Hidekazu et al. as applied to claims 12-13 and 15-19, and further in view of Katsuki et al. (US 6,291,570).

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyata et al. in view of Hidekazu et al. as applied to claims 12-13 and 15-19, and further in view of Katsuki et al. with support from Miyata et al. (US 3,879,525) and Kooli et al. ((1993) *Synthesis and properties of Mg-Zn-Al-SO₄ hydrotalcite like compounds*, Journal of Material Science **28**, pp. 2769-2773).

Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

1. The present invention

The present invention is directed to calcium hydroxide which is produced by reacting an aqueous solution of a water-soluble calcium salt with an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydroxide, and which is represented by Formula (1) given, for example, in claim 1. The present invention is also directed to a resin composition which comprises the calcium hydroxide of the present invention, molded articles, and stabilizers for resin compositions, which comprise the above-described calcium hydroxide.

2. Hidekazu et al.

Hidekazu et al. is directed to calcium hydroxide that is produced by a slaking method. Calcium hydroxide of the present invention is produced by reacting an aqueous solution of a water-soluble calcium salt with an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydroxide. See e.g., claim 1. Table 3 on pages 30-31 of the present specification shows that the calcium hydroxide of the present invention has a smaller average secondary particle diameter and BET surface area in

comparison with calcium hydroxide produced by a slaking method. The calcium hydroxide of the present invention tends to have a smaller diameter, but the BET surface area does not increase like the calcium hydroxide produced by the slaking method. When an additive for a synthetic resin has too large of a BET surface area, the synthetic resin is easily heat deteriorated and colored. Therefore, the calcium hydroxide of the present invention is suitable for use as an additive for synthetic resins, unlike that produced by the slaking method.

The MPEP makes clear that structure implied by process steps should be considered when assessing the patentability of process limitations in claims directed to a product. See e.g., MPEP §2113. Accordingly, Hidekazu et al. does not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present claims and this rejection should be withdrawn.

3. Miyata et al. in view of Hidekazu et al.

Miyata et al. does not disclose or suggest calcium hydroxide produced by reacting an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydroxide in the presence of Aⁿ. In Table 4, page 34, of the present specification, calcium hydroxide of the present invention is compared with the calcium hydroxide of Comparative Example 4 which does not contain an Aⁿ. The resin composition of Comparative Example 4 corresponds to the composition of Miyata and shows the worst value for time to blacken.

Accordingly, the calcium hydroxide of the present invention would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, and also shows unexpected results over the prior art.

4. Miyata et al. in view of Hidekazu et al., and further in view of Katsuki, Miyata '525, and Kooli et al.

The patentability of the present invention over Miyata et al. and Hidekazu et al. is discussed above. Katsuki et al., Miyata '525, and Kooli et al. do not make up for the deficiencies of Miyata et al. and Hidekazu et al. described above. Accordingly, dependent claims 20, 22, 23, and 27 are demonstrated as patentable over the prior art as well.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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